

ITEM: 11

SUBJECT: Placer County Department of Facility Services, Placer County Sewer Maintenance District No. 1, Wastewater Treatment Plant, Placer County

BOARD ACTION: *Consideration of NPDES Permit Renewal and Cease and Desist Order.*

BACKGROUND: Placer County Department of Facility Services, Placer County Sewer Maintenance District No. 1 (Discharger) owns and operates a wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal system, and provides sewerage service to the unincorporated area of North Auburn in Placer County, which serves a population of approximately 15,000 and includes most of the industrial area of the City of Auburn. The WWTP currently provides tertiary treatment when influent flows are 3.5 mgd or less and a mixture of secondary and tertiary treatment when flows are greater than 3.5 mgd.

The proposed permit has been modified from the existing Order as follows:

- The existing Order contained relaxed seasonal limitations for BOD, TSS and total coliform organisms to allow for a lesser degree of treatment during the traditional wet season (1 November through 30 April) annually. The proposed permit contains the same relaxed limitations, but has changed the conditions of discharge based on high influent flows and low receiving water temperatures. The proposed permit also requires that the inadequate wet weather capability be corrected to provide full tertiary treatment by 30 March 2009.
- Based on first time priority pollutant sampling of the discharge, the proposed permit also contains new Effluent Limitations for alachlor, aluminum, atrazine, bis(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate, bromodichloromethane, chloroform, copper, dioxin and furans, lead, manganese, mercury, MTBE, nitrate, PCBs, PAEs, chlorinated hydrocarbon pesticides, silver, tributyltin and zinc.
- The proposed permit requires the Discharger develop and implement an Industrial Pretreatment Program. A first time assessment of the industrial base by U.S. EPA in the City of Auburn shows that all principal industries discharge into the SMD-1 wastewater system and not the City of Auburn WWTP.
- The proposed permit changes limitations for ammonia from a receiving water limitation to Effluent Limitations based on federal regulatory requirements.
- The proposed permit removes 30 day averaging periods for turbidity, pH and temperature receiving water limitations, which were not technically based or protective of the beneficial uses of the receiving stream.

Cease and Desist Order

The proposed Cease and Desist Order includes a time schedule for complying with effluent limitations for ammonia and nitrates and new effluent limits based on drinking water MCLs, narrative toxicity and pesticide Basin Plan objectives.

ISSUES: The Regional Board, at the April 2004 meeting, considered the permit and Cease and Desist Order. The Discharger principally commented during the hearing, that the Orders should be amended to allow sufficient time for it to be determined if tying into the Lincoln Regional Wastewater Treatment facility was appropriate. Placer

County commented that the expenditure of funds for WWTP improvements would divert necessary money to close the facility and tie into the Regional WWTP. The County further commented that tertiary treatment is not necessary when receiving water temperatures are below 60° F and influent wet weather flows are excessive and that the California Department of Health Services (DHS) supports their position. The Regional Board continued the hearing and directed staff to:

- Meet with the Discharger and DHS regarding the recommendation for the level of treatment required to protect public health, and
- To prepare an informational item regarding wastewater regionalization in Placer and Nevada Counties.

Other specific permitting issues were expanded and addressed in a Response to Comments, which was available prior to the April 2004 Regional Board hearing.

Subsequent to the April Board meeting, Regional Board staff met with the Discharger on two occasions, once including DHS staff to discuss the recommendation for tertiary treatment requirements and protecting the beneficial uses of the receiving stream.

The compliance time schedules in the proposed permit and C&D have been modified to add additional time reflecting the several month period between the April and December Regional Board meetings. The proposed compliance time schedule for achieving denitrification has also been extended to coincide with providing full time tertiary treatment, or equivalent, requirements.

Mgmt. Review _____

Legal Review _____

3 December 2004 Board Meeting
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
11020 Sun Center Drive, #200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670